



May 31, 2011

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

GSA New England Region

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Re: STB Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 2) Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd.
Letter in Support of Abandonment

Dear Ms. Brown:

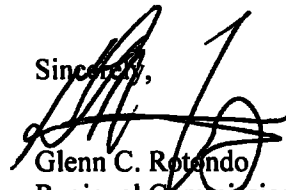
I am writing in support of the Petition for Exemption seeking authority to abandon approximately .4 miles of rail located in Van Buren, Maine filed by the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway Ltd (MMA). MMA is pursuing this abandonment to facilitate the construction of a new Land Port of Entry by the General Services Administration (GSA) for use and occupancy by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection and other federal agencies. In order to facilitate the construction, GSA has already acquired about 25 parcels of land totally over 18 acres from private landowners. Acquisition of a seven acre parcel owned by MMA (the MMA Property) is critical to assembling the site for the LPOE, as this parcel is in the center of the new Land Port of Entry and the new roadway to the border crossing will follow the current location of the rail line right of way.

Because GSA is displacing this portion of the MMA rail, which is used as a transloading facility, MMA qualifies for relocation assistance pursuant to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (URA), (42 USC § 4601-4655; 49 CFR Part 24). With funds provided by GSA, MMA is constructing of a new transloading facility to replace the one on the MMA Property.

Construction of the new LPOE is being funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009. To satisfy the goals of the Recovery Act, construction of the LPOE is on a "fast track" and GSA anticipates that the groundbreaking will take place in mid-June. Our ability to acquire the MMA Property to accommodate this timeframe is critical to maintaining the accelerated project schedule. Since GSA will not be able to acquire the MMA Property until the abandonment process is completed, we respectfully request a favorable and quick determination on MMA's Petition for Exemption to allow the construction to proceed without delay.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Glenn C. Rotondo
Regional Commission
Public Buildings Service

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